

FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR YEAR

... 1965



MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (End of 1965)

Captain G.T. Clarke.

*Miss. H.G. Davey. (Chairman of the Council)

Mrs. M.D. Girling. (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

C.J.T. Grayston, Esq. (Elected December, 1965)

A.R. Hake, Esq.

E.G. Hall, Esq.

*W. Haste, Esq.

S.G. Knight, Esq.

R.W.J. Palmer, Esq.

***R.W. Roberts, Esq. (Resigned November, 1965)

*W.J. Rowland, Esq.

**F.A. Runnacles, Esq.

M.W. Sheppard, Esq.

Dr. A. Sherlock

*W.R. Stokell, Esq.

*T.H. Thompson, Esq.

*W. Yetton Ward, Esq.

*Members of the Public Health Committee

***Chairman of the Public Health Committee

**Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.H. Imrie, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Joseph Bennett Compton, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

John Edward Sisson, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned March 31st, 1965)

CLERK

Mrs. E. North.



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To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman,

I have the honour to present my report on environmental health in the Urban District for 1965, including information requested in Ministry of Health Circular 1/66.

Recently it has been shown that, in the battle for health, improving the physical environment and the individual's standard of living may yield better dividends than conventional medicine. The major factors in the spectacular decline in mortality in the 19th century from typhus, typhoid, scarlet fever, cholera, dysentery and tuberculosis were the provision of wholesome piped main water supplies, the development of effective water-borne sewerage disposal, and improved nutrition resulting from a rising standard of material wealth.

In the 20th century, the improvement has been extended to the entire environment of home, work and play, the milk we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe.

We must not relax our efforts to create a healthier environment. Rather we should extend our attack on such promising lines as poor housing, accidents, atmospheric pollution, and occupational and radiation hazards. Because over-smoking, over-eating and too little exercise depend on the correction of personal habits, the individual too has an important part to play; for in this respect he really does carry his health in his own hands!

I am grateful for the support and encouragement given me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and Council during a year made difficult by staff shortage, and am especially indebted to Mrs. North, the Clerk/Typist/Receptionist, for her excellent services.

Yours respectfully,

J.B. Compton

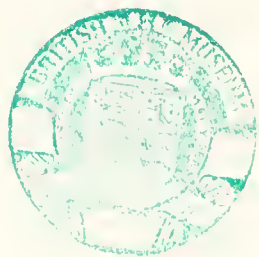
Chief Public Health Inspector.

"The silent bear no witness against themselves".

A. Huxley

South Beach Mansion,
Felixstowe.

March, 1966.



Statistics of District

Area (in acres)	4,281
Estimated Population (mid-1965)	18,460
No. inhabited houses (31.12.65) according to rate books:	5,902
Sum represented by a penny rate:	£2,640
Rateable Value:	£701,821
General Rate:(including County Precept of 8/-)	11/10

Population

The estimated population of 18,460 represents an increase of 710 over the previous year.

Weather

<u>Year:</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>
Rainfall (in inches)	29.452	19.505	20.873	19.079	20.055
Sunshine (Average hours per day)	4.28	4.45	4.26	3.93	4.72

Industry and Unemployment

Table 1 reproduces a Ministry of Labour estimate of the number of employees in the area of the Felixstowe Employment Exchange in mid-1965.

During the year, the number of persons unemployed in the town, represented as a percentage of the total insured population, varied from 2.6 in February to 1.6 in July.

Table 1

Estimated Number of Employees (Employed and Unemployed) in the Area of
The Felixstowe Employment Exchange at June 1965

Industry	Males Aged 15 & Over	Females Aged 15 & Over	Total Males & Females Aged 15 & Over
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	190	11	201
Chemical & Allied Industries	411	336	747
Engineering & Electrical Goods	219	228	447
Vehicles	52	5	57
Metal Goods not elsewhere specified	-	4	4
Clothing & Footwear	1	4	5
Paper, Printing & Publishing	106	17	123
Construction	605	9	614
Gas, Electricity & Water	76	13	89
Transport & Communications	435	19	454
Distributive Trades	318	348	666
Insurance, Banking & Finance	48	31	79
Professional & Scientific Services	142	471	613
Miscellaneous Services	208	646	854
Public Administration	237	29	266
Ex-Service Personnel not classified by Industry	3	-	3
Industry not stated	4	8	12
Grand Total	3055	2179	5233



Water Supplies

Main Supplies

Water is supplied in bulk by the Felixstowe and District Company, being purified by means of sedimentation, filtration and chlorination.

Samples of water taken and examined during the year are classified in Table 2, and confirm that treatment was in all respects satisfactory.

Table 2

Supply	Bacteriological Examination		Chemical Analysis	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Raw untreated water	—	20	—	—
Treated water	42	—	12	—

The natural fluoride content of the water supplied for domestic purposes is 0.1 parts per million.

Main and Other Supplies in the Urban District

Table 3 shows the water supplies, number of houses and population served on 31st December, 1965.

Table 3

No. of Houses	Served by	Population
5878	Mains Supply	18396
8	" (Standpipes)	21
16	Bores and Wells	43

Extensions of mains during the year : 585 yards.

Children's Paddling Pool

Five samples of water were taken from this pool during its use through the holiday season. All were satisfactory.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the district are reasonably adequate. The construction of a pumping station and laying of an intercepting sewer for the proposed Cliff Estate will probably take place soon, permitting connexion to the sewer of a number of existing cesspool-drained properties in the area.

Table 4 gives the number of houses with and without main drainage.

Table 4

<u>Houses</u>	<u>Provided with</u>
5829	Main Drainage
73	Cesspools/Septic Tanks.

Extensions of public sewers during the year : 974 yards.

Housing

New Dwellings

Figures of houses built in the Urban District since 1945 are given in Table 5.

Table 5

Year	<u>New Dwellings Completed</u>	
	<u>Private Development</u>	<u>Council Development</u>
1945/1950	51	302
1951	9	75
1952	12	64
1953	38	84
1954	64	103
1955	69	85
1956	64	80
1957	49	45
1958	47	41
1959	35	57
1960	68	25
1961	102	-
1962	78	-
1963	76	10
1964	143	18
1965	98	19
Totals	<u>1003</u>	<u>*1008</u>

*Fourteen Council-owned prefabricated aluminium bungalows were demolished during the year and their occupants rehoused. As sixteen were demolished in 1964, the effective total should be reduced to 978.

An approximation of the character of the tenancies of the 5902 homes in the district may be obtained from the following estimated percentages, projected from the 1961 Census returns:

	<u>Approx. Percentage</u>	<u>No. of Homes</u>
Owner/occupiers	47	2775
Private tenancies	29	1702
Council tenancies	18	1080
Service tenancies	6	345

At the end of the year, there were 249 applicants on the Council's housing waiting-list.

Existing Dwellings

Particulars of progress made in dealing with unfit houses are given in the following Table 6.

Statutory Action : Unfit Houses

Table 6

The number of houses at which defects were rectified in consequence of informal action.	7
Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notice.	3
Number of houses made fit under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957.	Nil
Number of Demolition Orders made.	3
Number of undertakings accepted not to use dwellings for human habitation.	3
Number of houses demolished.	Nil
Number of Unfit houses awaiting statutory action (31.12.65)	82

Rent Act, 1957

Details of action taken under the Act are:

Table 7

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	14
Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	-
Number of decisions to issue Certificates	14
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	4
(b) in respect of all defects	10
Number of undertakings given by Landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	14
Number of undertakings refused by the Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	-
Number of Certificates issued	-
Number of applications pending at the end of the year	-

Because, inter alia, a substantial proportion of the income of many families is spent on paying for the roof over their heads, a recent study of British urban families found that housing problems were second only to ill-health as the chief family worry.

In discussing housing programmes, it is important to distinguish between the social concept of housing 'need' and the economic concept of housing demand. The effective economic demand for housing simply expresses the extent to which people are able and willing to pay for accommodation. On the other hand, housing need is the extent to which the quantity and quality of existing accommodation falls short of that required to provide each household with accommodation of a specified minimum standard and above.

Unlike most consumer goods, which are replaced when obsolescent, old houses are not abandoned and demolished because they are decrepit, uncomfortable, inconvenient, and incapable of meeting modern needs. They remain, posing social and aesthetic problems for the community. Generally, the task of trying to arrest their decay and to modernise or replace them has by default fallen on Councils.

Locally, there are still 80 unfit houses being lived in, and though some of the tenants have no wish to move, it seems that families live in sub-standard homes only because they cannot afford anything better. It would seem too that only the Council is in a position to provide modestly rented accommodation capable of meeting modern needs.

A valuable, if minor, contribution to improving the quality of the local stock of houses are improvement grants, a summary of approvals of which is given below. Giving impetus in this direction, it is hoped that 1966 will see the designation and declaration of local Compulsory House-Improvement Areas under the Housing Act of 1964.

That much of our national and local housing stock is used unevenly is well known. This has led to the suggestion that Councils should approach owner/occupiers and offer to convert suitable under-occupied dwellings into two or more flats. One of the flats would house the previous tenant and the new accommodation could be used for the Council's own tenants. Councils would be responsible for the conversion and could give the previous tenant security of tenure and an income for life on the understanding that on the death of the tenant the whole building would become the property of the Council.

Present and future trends point to economic growth in the district leading to a continuing and increasing demand for more separate accommodation, more numerous and smaller families, more old people living in separate households and a general demand for higher standards and better housing. A comprehensive housing policy postulates the provision of new houses for sale, new houses for letting, and the replacement, conversion, improvement and repair of existing houses.

Improvement Grants Approved for Payment

Standard Grants	13
Discretionary Grants	Nil

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Particulars of licences outstanding at the end of the year are:-

Licences to use land as a site for holiday caravans	Maximum No. of Vans permitted
9	1006
Licences to use land as a site for single caravans	Total No. of Vans thereon
2	1

The permitted number of holiday caravans has been boosted by the granting of a licence for a new site authorising a maximum of 444 vans. Licenses issued are conditional upon licensees conforming to the recommended Model Standards for holiday caravan sites published by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

There is one licensed tented camping ground in the district. As regards this kind of camping, there is, perhaps, during the school holidays scope for the use of playing fields adjoining County schools. Canteen, sanitary and other services at the school could no doubt be made available to the campers.

Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies

Details of food traders in the District are given in the undermentioned Table.

Table 9

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Type of Business	Total No.	No. of inspections	No. of Premises		
			to which Reg. 16 applies	fitted to comply with Reg. 19	Reg.
Cafes and Canteens	61	66	61	61	58
Hotels & Guest Houses	86	11	86	86	16
Bakehouses	4	17	4	4	4
Grocers	36	70	36	32	26
Butchers	18	87	18	18	18
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	17	3	2	2	14
Sweet & Rock Manufacturers	1	—	1	1	1
Confectioners & Sweetshops	20	4	20	20	10
Licensed Premises	18	3	18	18	6
Fish Shops(Fried & Wet)	11	12	11	11	9
Shellfish Boilers	2	1	2	2	2
Stall (inc. Mobile Shops)	46	7	—	—	—
Dairies	2	11	—	—	—
Ice Cream Manufacturers	5	18	2	2	2
Ice Cream Vendors	101	21	101	101	101
Totals	428	331	362	358	267

Summary of Inspections

Table 8

<u>Housing and Public Health Acts.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Houses inspected	387
Re-inspections re. execution of work	104
Drains inspected	76
Drains tested	7
Rent Act, 1957	50
Improvement Grants	110
Infectious Disease Control	11
Mosquitoes	2
Noise Nuisances	8
Water Supplies and Sampling	28
Beach Hut Sites	35
Overcrowding and vermin infested houses	1
Refuse storage and removal	9
Camping Sites	62
Sanitary defects and nuisances	4
Smoke observations	12
Septic Tank installations	3
Offensive trades.	1
<u>Inspection Re. Supervision of Food Supplies</u>	
Bakehouses	17
Fishfryers/fishshops	12
Ice Cream (inspections and visits for samples)	39
Dairy premises, milk shops (inspections and visits for samples)	11
Slaughterhouse	154
Butchers and sausage premises	87
Cafes, Restaurants and similar premises	77
Food condemnations (excluding slaughterhouse)	5
Food poisoning	3
Miscellaneous	88
<u>Miscellaneous Acts</u>	
Factory Acts	27
Shops Act	14
Pet Animals Act	8
Rodent infestations	15
Miscellaneous general	45
	<hr/>
	1512
	<hr/>

Food Hygiene

The role of food hygiene is best understood when set in the realm of public interest; for it is the public's cash which sustains the food trade.

Food must be prepared in a clean environment. It must be clean and free from disease, contamination and adulteration because the consumer expects it so. His interest in decency must receive as much thoughtful attention as is given to his interest in safety. That unclean food presents no hazard to health or can be made harmless by sterilization is, consequently, an untenable precept. Nor is permissible an aesthetically acceptable method of handling a food which makes it unsafe when eaten.

There is a tendency to regard hygiene as being concerned solely with human health. Whereas the primary objective is the prevention of ill-health, hygiene routines are calculated to satisfy a broader consumer interest, including the observance of common decency in the preparation and distribution of food. Control measures falling short of this could not expect to have the confidence of the public.

Locally, special attention has been given to the provision of the following in food premises; adequate piped hot and cold supplies, lighting and ventilation, cloak accommodation, first aid kits, separate and distinct hand-washing facilities, hot-air hand dryers or disposable paper towels, impervious tops to food-preparation tables, "no smoking", exclusion of animals, special sinks for vegetable preparation, separate vegetable, dry goods and cold stores, ventilating canopies over cookers, sinks with temperature control and metal immersion racks for washing up, mechanical dish-washers, provision of adequate reserves of cutlery, crockery, glassware and overalls, and transparent "sneeze guards" or equally suitable protection for open retail displays of cream and custard confectionery.

Prosecutions were taken during the year against six offenders. They are summarised below.

<u>Offence(s)</u>	<u>Result</u>
Sale of mouldy meat pie.	£10 Fine.
Unclean catering premises, equipment and utensils.	£55 Fine.
Sale of mouldy cream cake	£5 Fine.
Sale of unfit fat for dripping-making.	£10 Fine.
Unclean butcher's premises, equipment and utensils.	£30 Fine.
Sale of mouldy meat pie.	£15 Fine.

Public Health Shellfish Regulations, 1934

Whelks are obtained from Cobbold's Point and Shingle Street, and are cooked before sale.

One sample of shellfish was taken during the year. The result was satisfactory.

Section 88, Felixstowe U.D.C., Act, 1947

Registration of Hawkers of Food

The following registrations have been made:-

(a) Persons registered as food hawkers	-	16
(b) Premises registered for the storage of food intended for sale from cart, barrow or other vehicle	-	16

Milk and Dairies

There are twenty-five registered distributors and one registered dairy in the district, all dealing in designated milks.

Samples of Milk and Fresh Cream taken for Bacteriological Examination.

Table 10

No. of Samples Taken	Type	Results
10	Pasteurised	Satisfactory 10 Unsatisfactory -
2	Sterilised	Satisfactory 2 Unsatisfactory -
20	Fresh Cream	Satisfactory 9 Unsatisfactory 11

All the unsatisfactory samples of fresh cream were followed up. In the main, retailers were blameworthy for holding on to stocks for longer than the recommended 36 hours.

Ice Cream

Samples of ice-cream were obtained from eighteen vendors to assess the hygienic standards of manufacture, distribution and storage. The results are shown in the following Table.

Table 11

Results	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Satisfactory	25	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	-	-	1	3
Total number of samples				- 29
Satisfactory				- 26
Unsatisfactory				- 3

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Food suspected of being unsound is either brought by the complainant purchaser to the Public Health Department for examination or made available for inspection at the food premises concerned.

Table 12 records the foodstuffs examined and declared unfit for human consumption outside the local slaughterhouse.

Table 12.

Goods not canned or packed

Commodity	Weight
Meat (at shops)	371b.
New Potatoes	13 Tons. 5 cwts.

Goods canned or packed

Fruit	3 cases 1 bundle
Meat	661b.
Jam	131b.

A complaint from a member of the public lead to the examination of a consignment of Japanese-canned fish on sale at a local branch shop of a national organisation. Examination revealed blackening of the inner surface of the cans and outer surface of the fish. This discolouration apparently arises from a breakdown of sulphur-containing proteins in the fish and the formation of hydrogen sulphide, which attacks the metal of the can and causes blackening. The entire consignment was in consequence withdrawn from sale.

A 100% inspection of all carcasses was achieved at the local slaughterhouse (See Table 13 below).

Table 13

Carcases and Offal Inspected & Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle Ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep or Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	107	-	6	184	133	-
Number inspected	107	-	6	184	133	-
All diseases except <u>Tuberculosis</u> and <u>Cysticerci</u> . Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	-	-	12	13	-
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cysticercosis carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Survey to determine Salmonellae organisms in Slaughterhouse Drains

No. of swabs taken 16

No. Positive for Salmonellae Nil

Byelaws - Hairdressers and Barbers

There are twenty-three of these premises in Felixstowe.

No contravention of the Byelaws was detected during the year.

Lead in Toys

Two specimens of mass-produced imported plastic toys were submitted to the Public Analyst for lead-content determination. One was found to contain 2,800 parts per million and the other 530 parts per million.

Unlike lead in paint, there is no evidence that lead in plastic can be absorbed by a child sucking or chewing it. While recognising this, the Home Office has published a standard for imported plastic toys which recommends that the lead content should not exceed 250 parts per million.

Lead is a dangerous poison and its effect is known to be cumulative. Recently, research workers have established a connexion between mental retardation in young children and lead poisoning. Nearly half of 122 mentally abnormal or retarded children they examined had taken in lead earlier, probably from sucking lead-based painted surfaces, and the level in their blood was higher than in that of healthy children.

There is a British Standard Code of Safety Requirements for children's playthings which recommends that paint for toys should not contain more than 1.1 per cent lead.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

This Act places a statutory duty on the occupier of any land or buildings to notify the Council of an infestation of his premises by rats or mice. The number of notifications or complaints received during the year was :-

Private Houses	298
Business Premises	30
Waste Land or Neglected Building Plots	4

A summary of work performed appears in the following Table.

Table 14

Property	Inspections	Treatment
Private dwellings, Council Houses, Allotments etc.	3,004	821
Farms	42	—
Business Premises	275	56
Council Works & Depots	76	32

Private dwellings are treated without charge. Treatment at business premises is conditional upon the payment of the cost incurred.

Disinfections and Disinfestation

	No.
Rooms and Bedding	2
Wasps' Nest Destroyed	56

In rural parts of the district, hawthorn hedges were infested with the small black caterpillar of the ermine moth (Y. Padella), suffering extensive defoliation in consequence. Treatment was effected in one case.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The Act makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in shops, offices and railway premises. The requirements of the Act follow closely those of the Factories Act and include provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, seats, safety of machinery, first aid and fire precautions.

Non-industrial premises exempt from application of the Act include those where only self-employed people work, where the only employees are immediate relatives of the employer or where the sum of hours worked by the employees is not more than 21 each week.

With the Act becoming fully effective on the 1st January, 1966, it is hoped that in the coming year it will be fully implemented.

Table 15 lists the local registrations (excluding family business and factory offices) and general inspections, Table 16 the class of workplace and number of persons employed, and Table 17 analyses the contraventions discovered.

Table 15

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year.	Total No. of Registered premises at end of year.	No. of Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	4	74	15
Retail Shops	8	125	35
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	1	4	-
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens	1	49	11
Fuel storage depots	-	5	-
Totals	14	257	61

Table 16

Class of workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	888
Retail shops	670
Wholesale departments, warehouses	79
Catering departments open to the public	251
Canteens	15
Fuel storage depots	26
	<hr/>
Total	1929
Total Males	1000
Total Females	<hr/> 929

One accident, due to a fall in an office canteen, was notified during the year.

Basically, the approach to accident prevention at workplaces is four-pronged: (i) training, (ii) elimination of the hazard by removal at source, (iii) enclosing the hazard by guarding it as near as possible to its point of origin, and (iv) personal protection by guarding the person or his clothing.

Factories

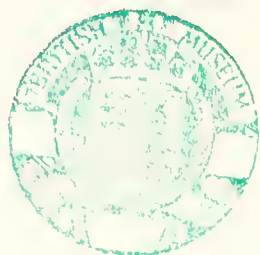
There are 105 registered factories in the town, mainly engaged in light engineering.

Twenty-seven inspections were made under the Factories Act, 1961.

There is one registered outworker in the town.

Table 17Analysis of Contraventions

Section		Number of Contraventions Found
4	Cleanliness	2
5	Overcrowding	—
6	Temperature	3
7	Ventilation	—
8	Lighting	—
9	Sanitary Conveniences	2
10	Washing facilities	2
11	Supply of Drinking Water	1
12	Clothing Accommodation	2
13	Sitting facilities	—
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	—
15	Eating facilities	—
16	Floors, passages & stairs	2
17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	7
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	1
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	—
23	Prohibition of heavy work	—
24	First Aid General Provisions	4
Total		<u>26</u>



1. ~~Dr. Didsbury~~ *late* C.407
2. ~~Mr. Morley Parry~~ A.419
3. ~~Mr. Perry~~ A.405
4. ~~Miss Pidgeon~~ A.408